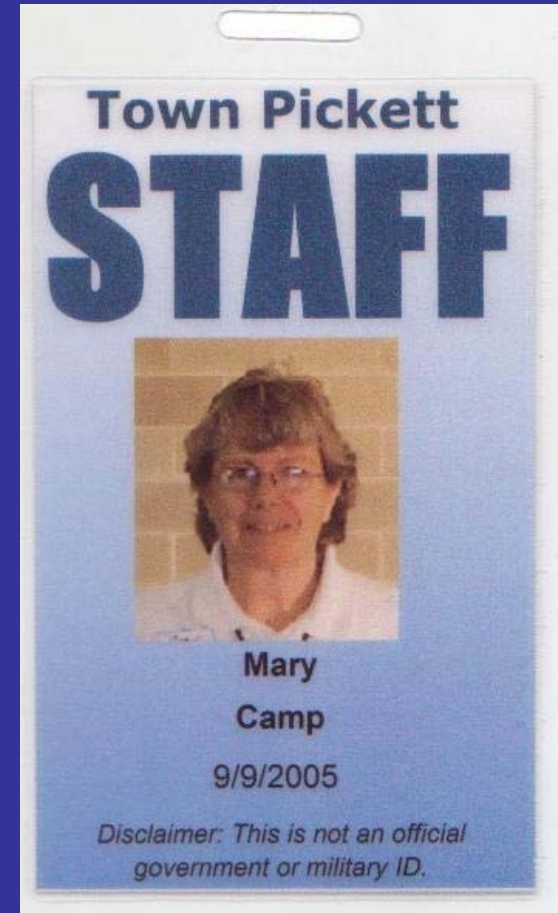


Town Pickett

September 2005
Fort Pickett
Blackstone, VA





The Leader of the Band!



Katrina Evacuation Timeline

- 8/29 Katrina hits the Gulf Coast
- 8/30 New Orleans floods
- 9/1 Start evacuees to other states
- 9/4EMAC broadcast to all states
- 9/9-12 Ophelia threatens East Coast
- 9/13 FEMA to states - “stand down”
- 9/22 Rita hits the Gulf Coast

Town Pickett Start-up

- 9/1-5 Discussions of Virginia's response
- 9/4EMAC broadcast - airlift to states
- 9/5Develop Pickett Plan (Labor Day)
- 9/6Governor's public announcement
Governor's offer to FEMA
- 9/7 "***Be ready at dark tomorrow!***"
- 9/99 AM Governor's walk-thru



EVACUEES



FORT PICKETT

SERVICES



VDEM Roles

- Liaison with FEMA airlift operations
 - Washington, DC
 - Baton Rouge, LA
- Advise Secretary Woods
 - Emergency management organization and capabilities
- Liaison with VEOC
- Liaison for federal cost recovery process

Virginia's Offer

- 9/6 to FEMA 1000 pp initial
2000 pp total
- Facilities at Blackstone
 - Ft. Pickett – 1000 pp
 - VUMAC – 400 (families)
Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center
- After 9/13
 - 400 with medical needs
 - Discussions with other states



FEMA Airlift Liaison

- ESF 6 Mass Care

- ☐ Headquarters (DC) daily conference call
- ☐ JFO Louisiana – Capacities at local shelters

- ESF 1 Transportation

- ☐ Airlift scheduling and destinations
- ☐ Bus destinations (airlift ‘on hold’)

- September 13

- ☐ “All FEMA flights ended September 11.”



Advisor to Team Pickett

- Understanding FEMA
- Using ICS at Town Pickett
- Federal “Emergency Declaration”
- 9/9 FEMA Disaster Specific Guidance (DSG #2)
 - Established eligibility for cost reimbursements for sheltering Gulf States evacuees
 - Guidance to state and local agencies
 - Daily national FEMA conference calls about DSG #2



VEOC Liaison

- Report Town Pickett activities for daily Situation Report
- Report VEOC daily briefings and hurricane forecasts on daily Town Pickett conference calls



Cost Recovery Liaison

- Emergency Declaration – 100% federal
- Cost reimbursement requests through the Public Assistance Program
 - Less than 10% of claims submitted by local and state agencies under DSG #2 in VA were approved by FEMA



Outcomes for Town Pickett

- Excellent training for state agencies
 - State as a host for other states
 - Parallel to EMAC – sending response and recovery assets to other states
- Challenge of adapting federal disaster assistance programs for unusual events
 - Confusion in eligibility of individual evacuees and of entities that helped evacuees



Lessons Learned for the Future

- Concept is valid

- A combined processing, supporting and clearinghouse facility is a good concept.

- Facility is appropriate

- Fort Pickett is appropriate for hosting people from other states. The use of other large state-owned facilities, such as colleges and universities, might be less appropriate for non-Virginia evacuees.

- Focus can move mountains!

Further Lessons for the Future

- Do what is right and be prepared to pay your own way.
 - Federal or state reimbursement is never a guarantee.
- Tasks to various state agencies may not be the same next time –
 - . . . however, given the authorities and capabilities, it probably would be similar.

READY . . .



. . . AND
WAITING !